Villages covered with non-conventional energy sources in Karnataka

352 SHRI K.B KRISHNAMURTHY Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENGERGY SOURCES be pleased to state

(a) the number of villages in Karnataka covered with Non-Conventional Energy sources so far,

(b) how many villages are proposed to be provided with Non-Conventional Energy in Karnataka, and

(c) what are the incentives being given to promote Non-Conventional Energy sources in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry is implementing a remote village electrification programme with the aim to electrify all remote census villages through non-conventional energy sources 21 remote villages have been identified in Karnataka for electrification through non-conventional energy sources under this programme 5 villages and 8 hamlets are proposed to be electrified in the State during 2004-05

(c) The Ministry is providing Central Financial Assistance up to 90% of the cost of the projects under the remote village electrification programme, with specific benchmarks linked with technologies adopted for electrification, throughout the country, including Karnataka

Slow pace of rural electrification

353 SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that India's electricity generation is one of the slowest growing infrastructure sector in the country and has had a huge negative fallout on rural India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only 43 per cent of the rural households have access to electricity,

(c) if so, the present status of rural electrification, and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to improve the electricity generation in the country?